

Fifteen years ago, March 22, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,708,934,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred eight billion, nine hundred thirty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,018,800,275,348.06 (Four trillion, eighteen billion, eight hundred million, two hundred seventy-five thousand, three hundred forty-eight dollars and six cents) during the past 15 years.

KEEP OUR PROMISES TO AMERICA'S MILITARY RETIREES ACT OF 2000

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 2003, Keep our Promises to America's Military Retirees Act of 2000.

This is an important step in providing the men and women who serve our Nation with a benefit our government promised them when they entered the military and, a promise that our government broke. It is our duty to restore these benefits.

There are still a few of us who serve in the Senate that wore our country's uniform in time of war and in time of peace that know of the hardships placed on the military people and their families. We also know, first-hand, of the promises made by our government to our service men and women. This bill is just a small step in restoring one of those most important promises—health care for military retirees. There are military retirees in my State of Montana that drive hundreds of miles to get their health care. There are some living a few miles from Malmstrom AFB, who cannot get an appointment on base. Mr. President, these are the folks that we promised to take care of it they spent 20 years of their lives defending our freedom.

We have a long way to go and much more to be done for our military personnel, active duty, retired, as well as our veterans. As chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee on Military Construction, I place a high priority on providing the active duty men and women and their families with adequate homes and facilities to work and live in. Mr. President, we have the best trained and the most highly educated military in the world—we must make a commitment to provide them with the tools necessary to do their jobs, with the salaries and benefits to recruit and retain them and with adequate homes and facilities to live and work. Just as these people honor their country with their commitment, this country must honor our commitment to them. With anything less, we lose these valuable people.

I encourage my colleagues to support S. 2003.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DAY OF HONOR OBSERVANCE

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to wholeheartedly support a resolution to designate May 25 as "Day of Honor 2000," to recognize African American and other minorities who fought so valiantly during World War II. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage nationwide participation in this Day of Honor Observance.

African Americans and other minorities fought and died in World War II to protect the freedom and liberty that we so often take for granted. Too often during the war and in years since, these brave men and women were subjected to unfair discrimination and have never received the recognition they deserve.

In 1941, we lived in an era in which African Americans could not eat at a lunch room counter with others, or drink from the same water fountains. Yet, we felt no hesitation in asking these same Americans to fight for democracy. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I see firsthand the sacrifices that our men and women in the armed forces make to preserve America's freedom. How much harder must it have been to make these same sacrifices fifty years ago. We owe them more than we can ever repay, and for this reason I wholeheartedly support a resolution and encourage nationwide participation in recognizing those African Americans who helped to preserve the liberty that has made our country great.

Pittsburgh will be joining cities across the Nation who will host a "Day of Honor Observance" on April 19, 2000, as part of the effort to recognize these citizens to whom we owe so much. I will be participating in this observance and I encourage you to join me in honoring those who put their lives on the line so that we might be free. •

JOHN AND MICHAEL DONOGHUE—FATHER & SON NEW ENGLAND PRESS ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAMERS

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize two outstanding Vermont journalists, both affiliated with my alma mater, St. Michael's College, and both recently elected to the New England Press Association Hall of Fame. This prestigious honor recognizes lifetime achievements in journalism. I am well acquainted with the work of both, and know that this recognition is well deserved.

The late John D. Donoghue was the first Public Relations/Sports Information Director at St. Michael's, the first chairman of the Journalism Department there, was a music and arts critic for 35 years at the Burlington Free

Press, and Executive Editor of the Vermont Catholic Tribune. During his tenure as professor and journalist, John Donoghue worked through his association with the New England Press Association and Vermont Press Association to improve professionalism within the industry, and fought for the public's right to know. He was a trailblazer among journalists from my home state, and his legacy continues in Vermont, across the United States, and in the foreign press, through his students who have successfully pursued journalism careers.

Michael Donoghue has served Vermonters for three decades as a journalist at the Burlington Free Press, and in the tradition of his father, teaches journalism at St. Michael's College. During Mike's tenure at the Free Press, he has been at the center of efforts to improve reporters' access to information, thus increasing Vermonters' access to their government. Mike helped lead the effort to allow cameras into Vermont courts, was a leader in efforts to improve the Vermont Public Records Law, has successfully fought to keep court records open, and recently was one of four Americans invited to Ireland to make presentations on Freedom of Information after that country adopted such a law. He is a past President of the Vermont Press Association, and active in several national journalism organizations. At the Burlington Free Press, he has proven to be among Vermont's most versatile reporters, covering everything from sports to politics to the court beat with expertise.

In honor of this outstanding father and son duo, I ask that the article Dedication Runs in the Family for Donoghues, from the Saturday, February 12, issue of the New England Press Association Daily News, be printed in the RECORD.

[From the NEPA Daily News, Feb. 12, 2000]

DEDICATION RUNS IN THE FAMILY FOR DONOGHUES

(By Jaclyn Tammaro)

They have always said "like father like son," and NEPA board member Mike Donoghue and his late father, John D. Donoghue, are a perfect example.

Both were honored by NEPA last night for their strong commitment and contributions to community journalism.

Mike Donoghue, who lives in Vermont, has written for the Burlington Free Press for 30 years, covering a variety of news. Recently, he began specializing in sports reporting.

In what Donoghue calls his "spare time," he teaches journalism classes at St. Michael's College in Vermont. In 10 of the 15 years he has taught there, he has been a co-adviser to the award-winning student newspaper, The Defender.

Aside from his work with NEPA, the Burlington Free Press and St. Michael's College, Donoghue has also served as an officer of the Vermont Press Association for 20 years, mainly pressing the issue of camera use in Vermont's courtrooms.

The last 13 years, he has taken the position of volunteer executive director. In this seat,